



Severna Park High School

60 Robinson Road | Severna Park, MD 21146 | 410-544-0900

September 24, 2019

Dear Severna Park High Families:

I have received many inquiries today regarding the recent newspaper story regarding our football game against Arundel High School on September 13, 2019. As was reported in the newspaper story, during the weekend after the game, an Arundel player's parent informed school officials that a racial slur had allegedly been said to her son by one of our football players during the game.

As a school and a school system, we take these matters extremely seriously. Once made aware of this allegation, both Severna Park High School and Arundel High School conducted thorough investigations. The investigations included interviews with players, coaches, and athletic departments from both teams. Anne Arundel County police have also conducted their own independent investigation.

At this time, neither our school, Arundel High School, nor police have been able to find any additional witnesses who could identify a specific person who uttered the slur. If you or anyone you know has further information which would be helpful in this matter, please contact our school.

I want to be very clear that the use of any racially derogatory word is never acceptable – not in casual conversation nor in any other type of interaction between any persons.

In the wake of this serious allegation, I spoke directly with the members of our football program. I also addressed our entire student body and spoke about the responsibility we all have, while showing our school pride and spirit, to not lose sight of sportsmanship, acceptance, kindness, and non-biased behavior and language. In short, we have an obligation to be respectful to one another. We also have a responsibility to support those who feel they have been wronged by encouraging such individuals to immediately report egregious behavior to appropriate adults and/or school personnel.

Finally, please know that we have resources available at our school (and all county schools) for those students who need to talk about instances in which they feel they have been wronged. Please encourage your child to seek out a school counselor if they have a need to discuss such a topic.

Thank you for your support of your child and our school.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Bathras
Principal

PJB/bm

